

Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Association

Annual General Meeting

11th August 2021

at

Loddon Vale, Bowling Club

Present:

Committee Members:-

Mike Wood, (Chair). Terri Allison (Secretary) Keith Russell, Celia Hooker, Martin Gilbey, Dave Partridge and Terry White

In addition to the committee, all ten clubs were represented.

1. Apologies for absence:

Gill Larking, Tony Amies, Mark Every, Phil Snelson, Richard Mole, George White, Bobby Zhou, Paul Rattue, Jan MacDonald and Pete Martin.

2. Chairman's Address

“Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Basingstoke Table Tennis Association for 2021. As is often the case, I need to start off proceedings by paying tribute to players that we have lost over the previous year.

Firstly, I need to mention Alan Lipscombe. Alan grew up in Essex Road and first starting playing table tennis at The Boys Club in Caston's Court Basingstoke at the tender age of 13 and started playing in the Basingstoke league soon after.

As well as table tennis, Alan was heavily involved in the Basingstoke football scene and served on the committee for several years. Some years later, Alan returned to table tennis, playing for the SEB at Winchester Road in the social club, and then moved with the team when they relocated to St Peter's church hall and became 'St Peters'.

It was while playing with St Peters in October last year that Alan sadly collapsed and died. Alan was 72.

Secondly, Dave MacDonald who suffered a fatal heart attack, aged 60 just before Christmas. Dave Mac, as he was better known, first played competitive table tennis in Basingstoke representing the Boys Brigade when he was just 14. He subsequently joined KG club where he continued to play until his ailments became too severe.

By trade, Dave was a bricklayer, but he was struck down with kidney failure in his 20s which put an end to his career in building. From that point onwards, Dave suffered very poor health, undergoing several failed kidney transplants, dialysis and all the associated complications. Nevertheless, Dave busied himself by playing an active role in renal health and helping other sufferers.

On the table, Dave was always very determined and gracious in defeat. Despite his health issues he was always keen to play and captained a junior team in Division 3 when he was less able to play himself. As well as playing in local leagues, Dave also played in the UK Transplant Games on numerous occasions. Dave was always one for a post drink chat in the pub - a fan of real ale and an enthusiastic member of Camra, he enjoyed a good discussion on politics.

Dave diligently carried out the role of trophy secretary for over 20 years, for which he was awarded Life Membership of the Association.

Dave's fortitude in the face of extreme setbacks was truly an inspiration to all those who knew him and he will be greatly missed.

No rule changes have been requested by the members this year, but one rule change has been proposed by the committee and we'll come to that later on.

In July, I spent over 7 hours on the hottest Saturday of the year attending the TTE AGM which debated 24 resolutions at length. I did not have any communication from the membership on these matters so I voted on your behalf as I saw fit. You'll find the results of the votes on the TTE website soon. From this year you will be able to request details of voting from TTE, but I'm happy to discuss this with you at any time.

Having abandoned the season due to the continued lock-downs, we conducted a straw poll of the membership to determine the most agreeable way forward and the overwhelming majority voted to consider the season void.

Your committee is aware that for many of you, table tennis is a significant aspect of your life, which is why we are keen that we retain some semblance of normality and maintain our physical and mental well-being through continuing to play our sport. So, as with last season, here in Basingstoke we have opted to commence league play as usual this season, in the hope that no further restrictions will be imposed on us. We believe there is a good deal of support for this approach and hopefully you will be able to enjoy a season of competitive table tennis.

Last year Basingstoke Voluntary Action launched a local lottery to support good causes and the Association joined in. The way it works is that members can sign up for one or more tickets weekly tickets of £1 each. Of that £1, 50p goes to the Association, and the rest to prize money, a central fund and running costs. There is a maximum prize of £25000 every week.

We haven't sold as many tickets as we would have hoped, but this still provides a little extra income and we are grateful to those who support us in this way.

There has been some good news on the development front recently, but I'll let Dave tell you about that later on.

I'd like to thank my fellow committee members for their efforts again this year. We have continued to run the Association by holding meetings online and we are committed to giving you as much opportunity to play table tennis as possible. At this stage, as well as the league competition, we hope that the Team Handicap Competition will continue, followed by a Closed Competition at the end of the season.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24th September 2020 were approved. Steve Rollason nominated acceptance and was seconded by Chris Smith.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

- (1) Keith had prepared the annual accounts which had been printed for the meeting and circulated on line to members. They were yet to be examined by an independent 3rd party but Keith aimed get this done in the next few days.
- (2) Keith explained that we are in a good position financially due to grants from the council to support us during lock-down and another amount to help with restarting the league.
- (3) Keith added that in past years his company had paid for stamps and envelopes but he now had to claim from the Association for these.
- (4) Since compiling the accounts we have received a further £8,000 bringing our savings account up to £31,804

Dave Kimberley proposed acceptance of the accounts and Martin Gilbey seconded.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

- (1) Terri reported that the Committee had endeavoured to keep up the meetings to stay on top of developments from the Government and TTE. They had met four times on Zoom Meetings including last year's AGM and had held a face to face meeting last month. Each meeting had an average of 7 attendees.
- (2) Terri and Mike keep in touch with the Basingstoke Voluntary Action Group, in the hope of gaining knowledge of grants/ sponsorships or volunteers.
- (3) Terri reported that she continues to receive inquiries throughout the year from parents and players looking to join clubs. She has directed most of them to the coaching to see how they fare as competitors.

(4) She added that she has spent a lot of time with the development sub-committee trying to secure new premises for a table tennis centre. Dave will report on this later.

(5) No Child Protection issues had been reported.

6. Honorary Registration Secretary's report:

Celia reported that:

(1) 24 teams registered last season which was 4 less than last year. 107 players, 26 less than last year, registered on time with both the league and TTE.

(2) Unfortunately because of a resurgence of the virus, the season was cancelled after only a few matches had been played; consequently all matches were cancelled and the league was abandoned by decision of a vote by the membership.

(3) The closing date for teams to register for the forthcoming season is 31st August 2021. Forms are now on the web-site and Celia asked that players take care to fill in all questions posed as she has to give statistics of seniors, juniors, male, female etc. to TTE.

(4) Please note that Celia's address has changed so any forms returned via the post or through her door must go to the new address as shown on the form.

(5) There are no fees this season for teams or players who had already had their subscriptions banked. They will roll-over for this season. All others will have to pay. Keith and Celia will advise those teams/players affected.

(6) It remains important for all players to pay their fee to TTE in order to play for Basingstoke and District Association.

7. Honorary Development Officer's Report

Dave Partridge reported as follows:-

Last year my report presented an uncertain future for the League with the Country in the grip of Covid and uncertainty of how things would pan out moving forward. We had had a season end early and another start with only a handful of games played before ending and planning for the future has been difficult over this period.

However over the last few weeks Government restrictions have eased and as reported by the Treasurer financially the Covid period has been good for us. Without the help of Government grants the situation could have been bleak. As we return to a "New Normal" whatever that holds for us our challenge is to encourage players to return to the League and to get back to pre-pandemic participants numbers and to grow beyond that number. At the moment this is against a backdrop of where some people are still concerned about going out or mixing

indoors and also the economic outfall of the Covid crisis. This will be no easy task and will take time as all business, sport and leisure face the struggle to get people back to what they did pre- pandemic.

Our sport and all sport will play a key part in people returning to a normal life and recovering from the mental and physical health damage inflicted by the Covid crisis and it is key that we have a successful league for people to play in to help with this process and it is important that we thrive as an outlet for people to play an affordable competitive or recreational sport. It is vital that we re-build, maintain and grow our sport. Last year I reported the closure of yet another door in our bid to grow the league with the end of talks with the Rugby club but I did offer a glimmer of light in the gloom but at that stage was too early to give any detail. I am pleased to say that tonight I can give the news that we are currently seated in the very building that could become the home of the new BDTTL table tennis centre. Not a good time to be trying to sort out a huge task of something like this and things haven't progressed as quickly as we would have liked due to the 2 National lock-downs that we have had. There has been exchange of e-mails but to date we have only had one face to face meeting. There is much to work on with leases, costs, work involved and the many layers of the Council but we have a contact at the Council who we have been working with who is facilitating contact with the varying departments at the Council. On a cautionary note don't get booking your slots yet as there is much work to be done and at present we don't have any time-scales.

This is our best chance so far of securing a table Tennis Centre for the Town that is fit for purpose as we are working with and has the support of the Council but it is by no means a done deal as we will have to generate more income to make this work. In order to grow the league we need to get this over the line. Essex Road was fine back in the day when most of the big firms in the town had social clubs and teams in the league. We find ourselves with the Social club a thing of the past and most of the firms have shipped out so if the league is to get bigger we need a centre where this can happen. There are community halls around town but they are more interested in regular weekly lets to commercial outlets such as weight-watchers etc. A table tennis team 9 or 10 home games over a 5 month period is not attractive to these venues. Loddon bowls no longer need the number of rinks they have so 2 would house the new TT centre. It would give a playing size of 9.5m wide, 37m long and over 3.5m high and able to accommodate 7 tables comfortably, 8 if we squeeze in and could fit in 10 for coaching. It would mean that we would have everything under one roof be able to hold coaching at convenient times and when we want to and have more slots available for teams to play in the league and be able to hold recreational opportunities such as bat and chat and much more. A key aspect will be for the first time we can welcome people with disabilities. There is much to be gained from the new facility and the quest to make this work is ongoing. As you will have seen tonight there is a bar and food facilities. As of the AGM tonight we are awaiting feedback from the Council with regard to leases.

As I reported last year we must continue to raise revenue and as indicated in the Chairman's report you can help by joining the local Community Lottery of which we are a part and if you

join as part of BDTTL we receive a percentage of the monies so please join and encourage friends and relatives to do so. We need to seek to get as much sponsorship as we can for the tournament, league and handicap cup and any ways anybody can think of in order to drive down our outgoings.

A more positive note to end on this year.

8. Honorary HTTA Representative's Report

- (1) Sarah reported that Hampshire Table Tennis had not had any meetings at all during the lock-down period.
- (2) Sadly 4 of its most influential committee members have passed away in the last few months. Derek Seager, acting secretary, continues to take on a huge amount of the County's workload and is in need of more members to sit on the committee.
- (3) Five teams have been entered into the county league this year.
- (4) Sarah re-iterated that affiliation fees from all leagues have been waived again.

9. Honorary Trophy Secretary's Report

- (1) Jan MacDonald (no relation) has very kindly taken on the role of Trophy Secretary, following the passing of Dave MacDonald.
- (2) Mike reported that Keith Russell's company and Tony Amies have very generously donated new silver cups to the Association.
- (3) The new Premiership Division, donated by 'White and Russell Estate Agents'.
- (4) Tony has replaced the 1st Division trophy which is in a state of disrepair. It is called the Webmaster's Cup.

10. Basingstoke Table Tennis Centre and Coaching Officer's report

- (1) Terry reported that the match room at Essex Road is being used again to practise. This is mostly at weekends.
- (2) Terry hopes that coaching will re-commence in late September when juniors have returned to school.
- (3) Phil Snelson has kindly offered to take on the coaching with Terry present to be the senior coach in attendance.
- (4) Basingstoke has only 4 licensed coaches and members are encouraged to try to take up the coaching courses offered by TTE. BDTTA will pay for these in return for a commitment to coach at Basingstoke for a few years at least.

- (5) Jamie Cole advised the meeting that Aldworth has a new point of contact for booking the sports hall. He added that Aldworth teams may change their night as Fridays are not overly popular. The coaching will continue to be on a Friday.
- (6) Dates for coaching will be arranged and published as soon as possible.

11. Web-Master's Report

- (1) Mike reported from Tony that there have been no issues with the web-site.
- (2) The membership expressed gratitude to Tony for the changes to the scorecard last year when the doubles were not played.

12. Election of President

- (1) Avril stepped down from this office and was thanked by everyone for her commitment to table tennis and in particular, Basingstoke.
- (2) The Committee had asked the Chairman to approach George White to take on the role of president and thankfully he has agreed.
- (3) Mike nominated George and Phil Ware seconded. The voting was overwhelmingly in favour.

13. Election of Officers

- (1) Past President Mrs Avril Waters stepped in as George was absent to conduct the election.
- (2) Mike proposed and Martin seconded for the Committee for 2021-22 to be elected en-bloc. The membership voted overwhelmingly in favour.

The Committee is :-

Chair: Mike Wood

Vice Chair: Tony Amies

Hon. Secretary: Terri Allison

Hon Treasurer: Keith Russell

Hon Registration Secretary: Celia Hooker

Hon Development Officer: Dave Partridge

Hon. Inter-Town Secretaries: Vacant

Web-Master: Tony Amies

Hon Trophy Secretary: Jan MacDonald

The Basingstoke Table Tennis Centre and Coaching Officer: Terry White

HTTA Representative: Sarah Whithorn

Press and Media Relations Officer: Paul Myers

Additional Members: Gill Larking, Mark Every and Martin Gilbey.

14. Election of Auditor

Les Bone had agreed to carry on as our auditor, Keith proposed and Phil seconded. Unanimously agreed.

15. Proposed Rule Change

In response to a TTE study on match formats and player engagement, we are considering the following rule change to remove doubles from the league matches.

The rationale for this is that it would reduce the length of the evening, resulting in an earlier finish which may be more acceptable to juniors and those with a caring responsibility.

Words in red should be deleted. In rule 31 ~~delete ten~~ and insert nine.

In the graph of play delete ~~Doubles Set~~

- Rule 29(a) Every match will consist of a team of two players opposing a team of at least two players. ~~save that each team may play a fourth player for purposes of participating in the Doubles Set only. In singles play~~ each player shall play every player of the opposing team one set. ~~One doubles pair from each team will also play one set.~~ A set will be won by the player ~~or doubles pair~~ first winning three games. A league point shall be awarded for every set won.
- Rule 30 Order of play (which may vary by mutual consent of the captains) to be where A,B, and C are the home team and X,Y and Z the away team. ~~Doubles set to be played as the fourth game of the match.~~
- Rule 31 There shall be ~~ten~~ league points available for each match which shall comprise of nine singles. ~~and one doubles game.~~
- Rule 32 The position in the League will be decided by the number of league points won and in the event of a tie, by the number of matches won and in the event of trophies are concerned the teams will play off on a neutral table. Points will be awarded as in the League ~~except there will be no doubles games played.~~ The teams will equally share any expenses in the play off.

Following discussion the membership voted by an overwhelming majority to keep the doubles and the motion was rejected.

16. Nomination of Club to run 2022 Closed Competition

This was deferred until later in the season when clubs would know how many players they had.

17. Any Other Business

Phil reminded the meeting that the colour of the rubber on one side of the bat is now permitted to change to one approved by TTE. One side will remain black.

This is covered in our rules 14 and 21.

18. Trophies

Avril presented the following trophies for the 2019/2020 season:-

- the Alf Cann Shield for the Most Improved Senior Player – Avril Waters
- the Barrett Cup for the Most Improved Junior Player – Gabriel Bori
- the Queens Cup for the Most Games Won – Bobby Zhou
- Division 2 Runners Up – AWE
- Division 2 Winners – OMI
- Division 1 Runners Up – Hannington C
- Division 1 Winners – Aldworth B
- Premier Division Runners Up – St Peters A
- Premier Division Winners – Hannington A

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

This is a true account of the meeting

Signed:

Secretary

Signed:

Chairman

Date: 2021